

(b) if so, what action Government are taking to protect interest of the present labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A five judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in their judgement dated 30.08.2001 in the case of Steel Authority of India Limited and Others Versus National Union of Water Front Workers and Others have affirmed that the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 does not provide for automatic absorption of contract labour on issuance of a prohibitory notification by the 'appropriate Government' under section 10 of the Act and consequently, the principal employer cannot be required to order absorption of the contract labour working in the concerned establishment. The above judgement has also quashed the Notification dated 9th December 1976 issued by the Central Government under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 to prohibit employment of contract labour for sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings owned or occupied by establishments in respect of which the appropriate Government under the said Act is the Central Government.

(b) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act and the Rules made thereunder contain provisions for protecting the interests of Contract labour in respect of working conditions, payment of wages and other amenities relating to their welfare and health.

Employment situation in Himachal Pradesh

1320. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of the National Sample Survey on employment situation in Himachal Pradesh during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the reasons for rise in unemployment rate, especially for rural youths in the State; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to accelerate job opportunities for rural youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per National Sample Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), during 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Work Force Participation Rate (WFPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) in Himachal Pradesh as per Usual Status Approach was as follows:—

Item	1993-1994(%)		1999-2000 (%)	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
LFPR	37.2	55.6	34.4	50.9
WFPR	36.3	55.4	32.2	50.3
UR	2.6	0.5	6.6	1.2

LFPR and WFPR are with reference to population whereas the UR is with reference to labour force.

(b) The main reason for the rise in the Unemployment Rate was that the economic development was not sufficient to absorb all the new entrants to the Labour Force and backlog of unemployed.

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A special group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year Plan. All these will help generation of employment in Himachal Pradesh as well.

Bill on right to information

†1321. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to get the Bill giving Right to Information to the general public passed in the House;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this Bill was introduced in the House last year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.